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February 17, 2015

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: 
Sheryl L. Spiller, Director

**SUBJECT: MOTION BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS ON IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EXPRESS LANE ENROLLMENT PROJECT (ITEM NO. 2,
JUNE 4, 2014)**

This is to provide you with our monthly status report on the Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) progress in implementing the Express Lane Project to provide Medi-Cal coverage to CalFresh participants. Below is a summary of our outreach efforts and data on the number of enrollments.

On June 4, 2014, on a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, the Board instructed the Director of DPSS to fully implement the Express Lane streamlined eligibility process described in the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All County Welfare Directors Letter and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Guidance. DPSS was instructed to report back to the Board in writing within 60 days and monthly thereafter. DPSS is seeking concurrence from the Board to begin reporting quarterly rather than monthly. To date, we have completed all tasks outlined in the motion, and the only remaining task is ongoing Express Lane Medi-Cal (ELMC) outreach. We propose to report the outcome of that outreach on a quarterly basis, commencing May 2015.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

As of January 31, 2015, according to DHCS, 29,210 CalFresh participants were enrolled in ELMC in Los Angeles County, which is lower than the previously reported number. The primary reason for the decrease is due to ELMC participants' transition to Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal after exhausting their 12-months of ELMC eligibility. Other reasons include the termination of CalFresh cases and ineligibility to ELMC. Therefore, some CalFresh participants identified in our previous report may no longer be enrolled in ELMC, but may continue to have Medi-Cal coverage.

DPSS continues to offer eligible participants the opportunity to opt-in during every point of contact, particularly during their CalFresh recertification interviews. For the period October 20, 2014 through January 16, 2015, we outreached to 29,448 CalFresh participants to encourage enrollment into ELMC. Of the 29,448 participants contacted, 3,224 opted to enroll in ELMC and 26,224 declined. Only half of those participants who declined enrollment reported having other health insurance. We are currently surveying a sample of participants without coverage to assess why they are declining the opportunity to enroll in Medi-Cal. We will share our findings in a future report.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 908-8383, or your staff may contact Jose R. Perez, Assistant Director, at (562) 908-8633, or via email at joseperez@dpss.lacounty.gov.

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c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel